



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Huntington District

Castle Comments

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Judge enjoins valley fill permits

By STEVE WRIGHT
Public Affairs

Last month US Federal District Judge Charles H. Haden II enjoined the US Army Corps of Engineers from issuing valley fill permits to coal companies involved in mountaintop mining under section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Haden in his decision said, "Nevertheless, for the past twenty years, particularly in the Huntington Corps District, Section 404 permits have been issued for mountaintop removal overburden disposal in valley fills that have obliterated and destroyed almost a thousand miles of streams, by the Corps' own account," Haden wrote.

Until three years ago, the Huntington District followed a 1986 agreement between the Corps and Environmental Protection Agency. This agreement places responsibility of regulating fill material discharged in waters of the United States to create dry land for a useful purpose in the hands of the Corps under section 404. Further, the 1986 agreement specifically refers to placement of mine wastes in waters of the United States as a section 402 regulatory responsibility of the EPA. Even though the 1986 agreement places

regulating placement of mining wastes in waters of the U.S. in the hands of the EPA, the Corps maintained Section 404 responsibility in the mining process with placement of fill for stream crossings, culverts, sediment pond embankments, and minor stream relocations. These activities meet the Corps' regulatory definition of placement of fill to create dry land for a useful purpose.

Mike Gheen, former chief of the district's Regulatory Section between 1990 and 2002, said that the West Virginia Coal Association sued the EPA in 1989 and argued that valley fills should be regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act by the Corps.

Gheen said that U.S. District Court Judge John Copenhaver, Jr. ruled that the mining waste valley fills were within the regulatory responsibility of the EPA according to the 1986 EPA/Corps agreement. The coal industry appealed Copenhaver's decision to the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals which upheld the lower court decision in 1991.

Gheen referred to the 1986 EPA Corps agreement and these two decisions in the

See decision page 12



File Photo

The battle continues over protecting Appalachian hills as Judge Charles Haden rules the Corps cannot issue valley fill permits under section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Inside this Issue



- The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is in full swing after the May flood. On page 2, read one family's reaction as they say good-bye to their homeplace and community. And page 4 highlights how the EOC works.

- If you missed the Corps' picnic, you don't have to miss the pictures found on page 5.

- Two Huntington District women reach supervisor level. Read their reactions and hopes in their new jobs pages 6 and 7.

- It's graduation time as employees announce their child's achievement pages 8 and 9.





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Marmet pushes forward with contract award

By **ELIZABETH SLAGEL**
Public Affairs

The Corps awarded a \$226 million construction contract to Kokosing/Frucon Construction Company for the lock extension at Marmet this month.

The six and a half year project will get underway sometime in July for the new 800 foot long lock chamber on the Kanawha River. The contract also includes replacement of the upper approach wall on the existing river chamber, according to Project Manager Michael Keathley.

The Marmet Lock extension is a result of a 50/50 cost share among the Federal Government and the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, an organization that generates revenue through diesel fuel taxes.

Commander's Corner

Colonel describes PMBP as cultural change



By **COL JOHN RIVERNBURGH**
District Engineer

Our Chief of Staff of the Army, General Eric Shinsecki said, "The only thing worse than change is irrelevance." Our Corps of Engineers and our own Huntington District are indeed changing. The change is not organizational, but cultural.

The district senior leaders met last month and developed a strategic plan to carry the district into the future. The focus will continue to be our investment in our folks, taking care of our customers, meet emerging national and regional needs and improving our organizational effectiveness. You'll see the plan next month.

Our strategic plan's foundation is the Project Management Business Process (PMBP) and it will work under the umbrella of our Corps of Engineers Environmental Operating Principles. We will fully implement PMBP on Oct. 1. We are just starting the training and I know we will better serve the citizens of our great nation when PMBP is up and running.

PMBP will be the common language we all operate from. It will put every member of our district team on the same team as the rest of our Corps of Engineers. As we move into the 21st Century, we must all be ready to work together across district and division boundaries to meet our nation's needs.

Football looks a lot alike from the high school level to the college level into the pros. The field is 100 yards long with yard lines every five yards. The ball is the same shape. The refs wear the same uniform and the basic rules are the same. There are 11 players per team on the field at one time, unless you are out west where they play six, seven, or man ball. Everyone knows what the game will look like when they get to the stadium and there are no surprises until the game starts to unfold.

PMBP is much the same way. It lets everyone involved start off on the same sheet of music. Once at the table, the work itself will offer up enough challenges and opportunities, so why worry about the size of the field or the type of ball – we'll all be able to get on with the business of our business. We can and will make it work here in Huntington District and I challenge each of you to embrace this new and exciting time in our Corps.

As we approach July 4th, I wish everyone a great summer and ask you to be safe. Be vigilant in your work and play. You are incredibly valuable to your families, your community and our Corps - we do not want to lose you for even a minute. Thanks for all you do and for all you will do.

Going...Going...Gone!



Photos by Chuck Minsker

Flood cleanup becomes second nature to district

By **CHUCK MINSKER**
Public Affairs

The huge metal claw of the machine known as an excavator reaches out and gouges a six-foot hole in the side of a home. With each swipe, more of the building crumbles. Boards snap, aluminum siding peels away and a cloud of decades-old dust starts to rise.

As a safety measure, a nearby tanker sprays a steady stream of water over the home. The upper section of the chimney topples to the ground and flies apart, sending bricks in every direction.

The excavator spins its treads as it crawls up the growing pile of debris. Stretching out, the claw reaches the far corner of the roof and pulls the last wall down. Soon there's nothing left that looks like a house – there's only a pile of bricks and splintered wood.

An empty truck rolls into position by the pile and the excavator starts scooping up the debris and loading it into the truck. Soon it will be placed to rest in a nearby landfill and the demolition crew will move on to the next house.

And that's how the town of Landgraff ends. Never more than a small mining community, the town in McDowell County was once made up of 22 homes and a store. It even featured a sidewalk and street lights at one time.

Now, that's all gone – washed away by floods. By the time the last flood tore through the community May 2, there were only a handful of homes left. They were then condemned by the

state Fire Marshal, and under the direction of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Corps coordinated the demolition of those homes.

John Parks, Jr. first bought his home there 48 years ago, and he and his wife visited the site June 14 when the construction crew hired by the Corps began the job of tearing down the last of the homes still standing. Parks summed up his feelings in four words: "Awful sad – and heartbreaking."

Parks, a former coal miner, had fought back from more than one disaster. After the July flood, he decided not to have the house condemned – he repaired the damage. This time around, he decided, "Enough was enough."

He had already moved to a nearby

community, but his wife's brother had been living in the home (although no one was there at the time of the flood). When the state offered to demolish the home after the last flood, Parks decided it was time to sign the papers. "At 75 years old, it was time to give it up."

His wife, Margaret, agreed. Landgraff had been a nice community at one time, she said, "But the flood changed everything. Before the last flood, there were eight families living here. Now all their homes have been torn down, and I don't even know where they are now."

It was just the beginning of a major clean-up effort by the Corps throughout southern West Virginia, Eastern Kentucky and parts of Virginia. At least 150 homes were condemned after that last flood and more may be added to the list.



Public Affairs Officer Steve Wright answers questions from a local television station during an interview about the Corps' job of demolishing condemned homes in Landgraff.

Men/Women in red

The Emergency Operations Center goes to work when FEMA calls

By **CHUCK MINSKER**
Public Affairs

When a flood strikes, emergency crews go to work. Local rescue teams, county and state emergency officials, the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross are among the first on the scene, providing help to those in need.

But on the fourth floor of the Huntington District office building, another team also swings into action. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) doesn't get as much attention as those other groups, but its work is vital to coordinate relief and recovery efforts.

"When an event hits, we respond to the emergency," said Environmental Engineer Dennis Chabot.

District Emergency Manager Carl Miller said, "Even though Operations and Readiness – Emergency (OR-E) is the primary coordinator for disasters, it's the commitment of all the district staff that leads to the success of the emergency response effort."

This year, for the second year in a row, the district has been faced with responding to a major disaster. Currently there are 26 personnel working at the Beckley Field Office

with the mission of demolishing approximately 200 condemned homes.

The debris team consists of individuals from the Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Chicago, Louisville, Detroit and Huntington districts, making it a truly regional response team.

During a flood event, the district has the authority to provide sandbags and pumps to help protect those in danger. However, because of this area's steep, mountainous terrain, the water usually rises and falls so quickly that there is very little opportunity to do any flood fighting.

After an event, the EOC's primary focus is on human survival - providing ice, water and power. Other missions include debris removal, the demolition of condemned buildings and constructing temporary housing sites.

The Corps has developed a nationwide strategy using trained Planning and Response Teams (PRTs) for these missions. The Huntington District has a housing team that was activated for three months last year and constructed eight sites containing more than 170 trailer pads.

Chabot said, "The majority of our work is with other organizations, like FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency). We get

involved through the Division, and receive a set of orders."

Cincinnati sends a command and control cell to the Disaster Field Office (DFO) which supports FEMA.

"We're like a crossroads," Chabot added. "Money comes in and goes out, and people come in and go out."

Managing money and people are two of the center's most important functions. The EOC arranges for Federal funding for relief efforts, and for assistance from people who are the best in their field.

"We've sent people to every corner of the country, and even internationally. That's part of the mission, responding to other district's disaster," Chabot added. It's a major undertaking, and includes constant monitoring of the progress of the crews and providing Situational Reports.

But the mission of the EOC has changed over the years. In fact, someone who worked the job 10 years ago probably wouldn't recognize it today.

Back then, the job mostly involved doing damage cost estimates for FEMA – determining how much it would cost to repair or replace items lost or damaged in a flood.

Now the job focuses on planning and response and that can include everything from constructing homes, cleaning up leftover debris, shipping in clean water, providing a source of power, building temporary roofing and overseeing the demolition of damaged structures.

Chabot said, "The Readiness 2000 concept really changed the definition of our job. In the last flood, we built temporary homes, including utilities, an access road – whatever was needed."

It's a more professional concept, where the EOC gets to start and finish a task. Chabot said, "We do a recovery more than a response."

It's also a job that keeps the team very busy - the Huntington District EOC has been activated more often than any other since 1997. In the five years since then, the district has averaged a flood a year.

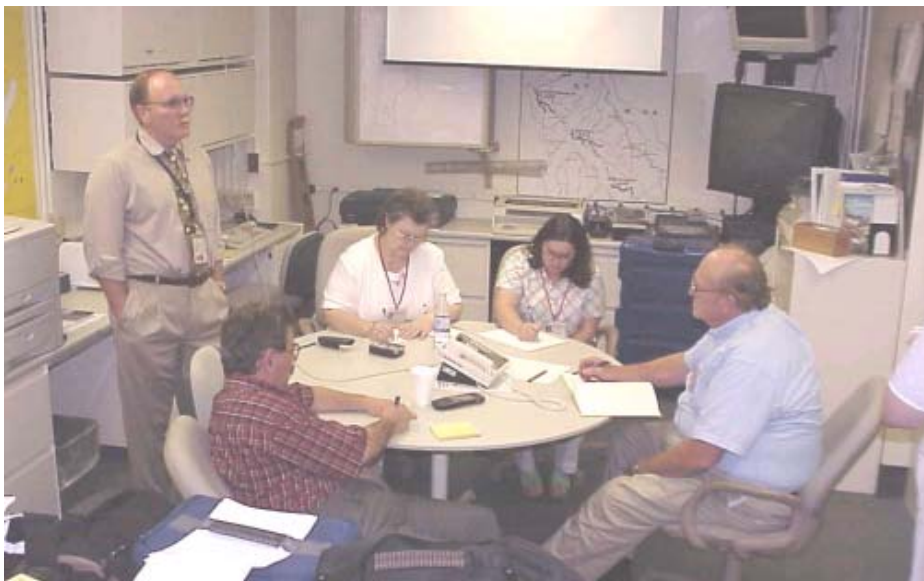
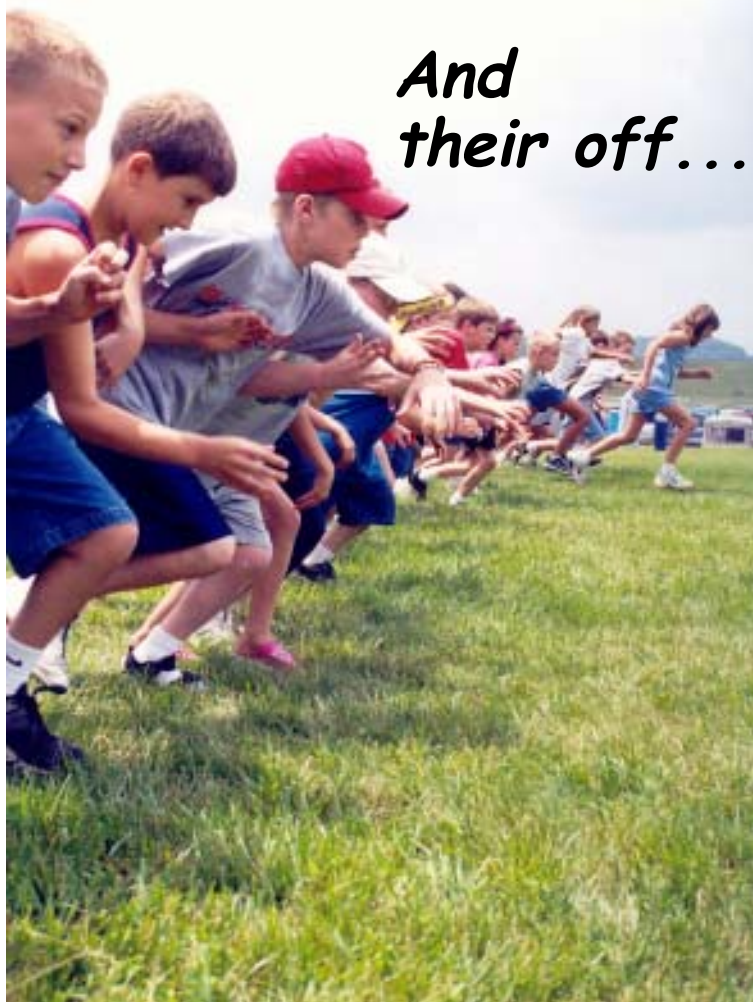


Photo by Chuck Minsker

EOC Chief Carl Miller discusses the next plan of action as it handles missions for the May flood in southern West Virginia.

Picnic Pics

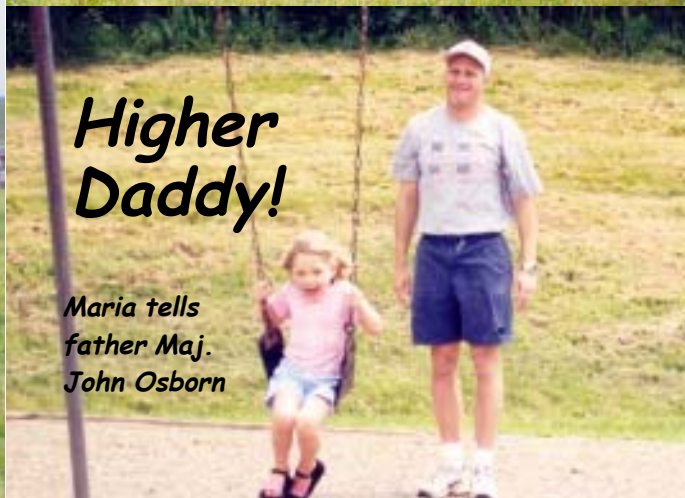
*And
their off...*



And their down...

*Higher
Daddy!*

*Maria tells
father Maj.
John Osborn*



Everyone line up...



*Old
Friends...*

*Former employee Lisa Dale
Dean comforts daughter
Elizabeth*



*Sloppy
fish*



Which way?



Homegrown gals p

Mullins makes her way back to regulatory

By PEGGY NOEL
Public Affairs

When you walk through the door of newly selected chief of Regulatory Branch's office, the first thing you notice is how neat and orderly the office appears. But don't be fooled by the feminine decor, because Ginger Mullins, a former Georgia police officer, is a force to be reckoned with.

As chief of a branch of about 20 people, Mullins faces a number of challenges. "The first challenge will be placing people to establish new leadership in the regulatory office," Mullins said.

She arrived in the Regulatory Branch to find both section chief positions vacated. Former section chief Rick Buckley was recently appointed as chief of the Marietta Repair Station, and section chief Jim Richmond retired in March.

"Hopefully, by the end of June, selections will be made, and the district will see new managers in the regulatory branch. We will be building a new team."

Mullins sees the changes as positive, and hopes to establish a branch with broad-based experience rather than regulators working in a single area of expertise. That's not to say some regulators will be viewed as having more experience in one area than another, but Mullins hopes that each regulator would be able to handle any permit action.

"I am fortunate to come into a branch of hard working professionals who are used to producing high quality work in a short time frame. They are a great group of people, and I look forward to reestablishing old relationships and to forming new ones."

Another significant challenge for Mullins and one that will ultimately impact the entire district is the mountaintop mining issue.

"My third day on the job as chief I



Photo by Kathy Rea

Ginger Mullins takes on Regulatory Branch and some of the district's hottest issues.

received an injunction by Judge Haden. This issue has the potential to impact the entire permit program, not just mountaintop mining."

Mullins credits most of her success with her ability to form relationships. "I value relationships with people, and seek to understand them as a person." She lives the Covey principal of listen, understand, and explain why.

The regulatory branch issues permits for Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky, and is the lead district in

West Virginia and Ohio. Each year, thousands of permits are issued by the Regulatory Branch.

With her recent selection as chief, Regulatory Branch, Mullins has joined the elite ranks of Huntington District women who have broken the glass ceiling to achieve a GS-14 level position.

Mullins has a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from the University of Georgia, a Masters in environmental studies from the University of Charleston, elective graduate study in marine biology at Harvard University, and post graduate work at Marshall University.

With a bulk of years of regulatory experience, Mullins has a good solid foundation with which to lead the regulatory branch, and her goal is formidable.

"I want to lead our team as we provide a proactive regulatory program that works to protect the aquatic environment, is sensitive to timeliness, and provides reasonable decision making for the regulated public."



Photo by Steve Wright

Ginger Mullins at her desk during her Public Affairs days. She has worked outside of Regulatory Branch in Planning Branch as well.

Promoted to the top

King pulls up the ranks in Contracting

By ELIZABETH SLAGEL
Public Affairs

Twenty years ago Sandy King decided contracting was a promotable field for women within the Army.

She was right. This insight along with perseverance worked to her advantage as she left behind her plans to become a school teacher and furthered her Army civilian career. During her 14-year span with the Huntington District, she's gone from a GS-4 to chief of Contracting.

And although becoming chief of contracting sounds like a career plan gone well, King says it is a bit of a surprise to her.

"I did aspire to it, I just didn't think I'd reach it. It was always in my IDP, I just didn't think it would happen; never this soon."

The Huntington native interviewed for the position May 14 and found out the following day she would head the entire contracting team, leaving behind her position as team leader on the Engineering and Construction side of the house that she will later have to fill.

She credits a boss with her first Army job at Fort Polk, Louisiana Army Base for shaping her contracting philosophy. "He always said the regulations are met as a guideline to find a way to do something, not as a reason to say no."

This advice led to her can-do approach to contracting issues that are under the careful guidelines set forth by public law and Army and Engineer regulations. To make the job all that more difficult, these laws and regulations are constantly changing and it is up to King and contracting employees to keep the district in contract compliance.

When asked what she has planned in her new position, she said she hasn't had a lot of time to give her approach much thought, but she would like to reestablish the contracting office's credibility both

within the district and the Corps.

The Chief Contracting position has seen a high turnover rate in the past six years when compared to other traditional Huntington District managerial positions. As well, during this time it was occupied by managers who came from outside the Huntington District.

King said she is glad to see local people being considered for managerial positions. "People here have pride in the area and really care about the future of the district." What she said contracting needs, is to improve cohesiveness.

"I have no intentions of micromanaging. I just want to encourage teamwork, improve job satisfaction and have fun. If you have happy people, you have good productive employees."

Contract Specialist Cheryl Hensley said she has full confidence in her longtime mentor leading the office. "I believe Sandy King will be an important and effective addition to the district staff. The district has shown support of her capabilities and knowledge and I feel she has earned the respect and trust of the district and her contracting team. I believe she will be supportive of the contracting team and empower us to do our job."

King said the past years she has found herself on numerous committees and heavily involved with strategic planning and the Project Management Business Process. All of which she says have helped her see where the district is going. She was



Photo by Elizabeth Slagel
Sandy King says she values the Huntington District much the way she does home.

also a Leadership Intern in 2000.

King said Huntington is home and where she always wanted to work. In her spare time she enjoys season tickets to Marshall games and the MU artist's series as well as her three year old niece Kali and dog Darby.



Photo by Peggy Noel
King several years ago as a Contract Specialist said she had no idea she would be chief.

• Andrew Marchese, son of Engineering and Construction's Vince Marchese and his wife Eileen, graduated summa cum laude from Fairland High School in



Proctorville, Ohio. Marchese is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta and vice-president of Tri-M Music Honorary. As a scholar athlete he was co-captain of the cross country team and received the senior leadership award for the track team. His is president of the Lawrence/Gallia Counties Youth Farm Bureau and is an Eagle Scout. He received the A.E. McCaskey Engineering Scholarship from the Society of American Military Engineers. In the fall, Marchese plans to attend Purdue University and major in agricultural engineering.

Joshua Thomas Hannah, son of Meldahl Lock's Joe Hannah and his wife Pam, graduated from the University of Cincinnati June 8.



He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in chemical engineering. Pictured is Hannah with guest speaker Ben Stein. After a brief break from his studies, he plans to further his education by earning a degree in law.

•Angela Craddock, daughter of Engineering and Construction's Russell Craddock, graduated Dec. 2001 with a double major bachelor of science in organizational communication and theatre from Murray State University. She is currently pursuing job leads.



•Phillip Woods, son of Engineering and Construction's Marsha Woods and Lane Woods, graduated from Cammack Middle School. He will be attending Huntington High School in the fall.



2002

•Danelle Phelps Wilson, daughter of Engineering and Construction's Jerry Phelps, graduated from West Virginia University Medical School May 19. She is now in Atlanta, Ga. at Emory University as a resident in pediatrics. Her husband Matthew Wilson is at Emory as well serving as a resident in cardiology.

Laura Lange, daughter of Wills Creek Lake Jerry Michael, is now a practicing dental hygienist in Newark, Ohio. She was married in June 2001 to Jodi Lange after following her father's advice of waiting until after graduation to wed. The couple has saved enough money for a down payment on a house.



•Derek Newman, son of Engineering and Construction's Mary Newman and her husband, graduated from Rock Hill High School May 26.

Amy Bailey, daughter of R.C. Byrd Lock's Kenneth Bailey and his wife L a d o n n a , graduated from Spring Valley High School magna cum laude. She was a member of the



National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Decca, Secretary of the Spanish Club and honored in Who's Who among American High School Students three consecutive years. She was awarded the promise scholarship and presidential scholarship from Marshall University where she plans to further her education in business/law.

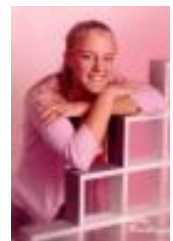
•Jason Aliff, son of Contracting Division's Connie Aliff, graduated from Ohio University with a 3.4 grade point average. He will be attending Officer Candidate School and is a member of the Kentucky Army National Guard. He will be assigned back to his home

unit, 201st Engineer Battalion as a Second Lt. Platoon Leader. He also worked as a summer student ranger at Yatesville Lake.



•Laura Anderson, daughter of Engineering and Construction's Phillip Anderson, graduated from Cabell Midland High School with five awards as outstanding student of mathematics, physics, Latin, intro to business and the Air Force Recruiting Service mathematics. She also received the presidential and science scholarships to Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio.

Jennifer Michael, daughter of Wills Creek Lake Jerry Michael, graduated Licking Valley High School. She was lettered in cheerleading and track. She will start Columbus Tech in the winter quarter to study physical therapy.



•Michael Mellon, son of Project Management's John Yeager and his wife Debbie, graduated from the University of Virginia College of Arts and Sciences with a 3.7 grade point average. He majored in government and will attend Vanderbilt University Law School in the fall where he received a partial scholarship.

Grads

Jennifer Varner, daughter of Geneva Varner of North Fork and Pound and her husband Gary, graduated from Pound High School as Valedictorian. Her high school career included honors such as attending the Governor's School, Virginia Girls State and being nominated for HOBY Youth Leadership. She also was involved in several extracurricular activities this year including president of the SCA, coeditor of the school yearbook and member and officer of several other clubs. In sports, she received academic all-district while at PHS in the sports of volleyball, softball and cross country. Varner plans to attend the University of Virginia's College at Wise in the pre-med program majoring in biology. She is also employed at Flannagan Dam as a summer student ranger.



•Jean Knedler, daughter of Jean Ann Knedler of Paint Creek Lake and her husband Frank, graduated from McClain High School in Greenfield, Ohio. She plans on attending Marshall University in the fall to study information technology.

•Elena and Erin Krupa, daughters of Nick Krupa of Muskingum Area Office, recently received honors at an academic awards assembly at Strasburg Elementary School. Erin, a fourth grader, received a certificate for being on the honor roll all four semesters this school year. Elena received the President's Award for Educational Excellence awarded to qualifying "graduating" sixth graders as well as a certificate for being on the highest honor roll all year. Elena also participated in an all-county math tournament and placed forth in the decimals competition.

•Kelli Jane Rudisill, daughter of Bluestone Lake's Dave Rudisill, graduated Summers County High School. Her honors/awards include: Senior Vice President Class of 2002, member of National Honor Society with which she graduated seven of 107 in her class with a GPA of 3.7 She was also awarded the National Student Athlete Award, the Elks Scholarship, and the Hinton Area Foundations Campaign 2000 Scholarship. Her future plans are to become a radiologist or respiratory therapist.



•Gina Craddock, daughter of Engineering and Construction's Russell Craddock, graduated in May with a bachelor of arts degree in kinesiology from the University of Kentucky. She is presently working at UK in the biodynamics lab doing research for minimally invasive surgery.



•Kelley Caserta of Real Estate Division graduated from Ohio University with a bachelor of business administration.

•Olivia Parsons, daughter of Real Estate's Don McGraw and his wife Leola, graduated Collins Career Center as an LPN. Parsons performed clinicals at King's Daughter's Medical Center and is a 1999 graduate of Collins in EKG, phlebotomy and medical assisting. She also attended Marshall University for two years. She will further her education to become a registered nurse this fall.



•Mary Rhonda Dilley, daughter of Engineering and Construction's Linda Hazelett, graduated from Marshall majoring in mathematics with a 3.95 grade point average. She will continue Marshall this fall in graduate school.

•Rachel Marten, daughter of Real Estate's Merlyn Marten and his wife Priscilla, graduated summa cum laude from Fairland High School in Proctorville, Ohio. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Math Society and Tri-M Music Honor Society. She was selected for a senior salute award which recognizes outstanding seniors at Fairland High School. She was also a recipient of scholarship awards from the French club and academic boosters club and was also awarded the Judge Charles L. Burd Memorial Scholarship. She will be attending Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.



•Marianne Michael, daughter of Wills Creek Lake's Jerry Michael is a 2002 graduate from Central Ohio Technical College with a degree in criminal justice. She has already passed her police officer's test for Heath Police Department and is working as a dispatcher.



•Kyle Wheeler, son of Mark Wheeler of Williamson Project Office, graduated from Pikeville, Ky. High School. He will be attending Marshall this fall majoring in history.

•Leah Lahm, daughter of Mohawk Dam's Janet Lahm and her husband Luther, graduated with honors from West Holmes High School in Millersburg, Ohio. Lahm's high academic performance and exceptional musical skills have earned her three scholarships which she will use to attend Ohio State University where she will study creative arts.

They call him the ground hog dog

By JANET LAHM
Ranger, Mohawk Dam

A high energy answer to a problem has arrived at Mohawk Dam. The bright eyed, wagging, bundle of energy is Lane Lee, the pet dog and pal of Bob Lee. "Ground hog Dog" as he is known at the dam, serves as volunteer ground hog eliminator.

Ground hogs thrive around the dam, operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Although not a threat to the integrity of the dam, the holes dug by the ground hogs can cause a hazard to grass mowers, and to anyone walking in the area.

Due to the many instruments located along the huge dam, and the campground and river being so close, shooting the ground hogs isn't possible. Various companies can

remove unwanted animals, like the ground hogs', but the cost is very high. The dog, Lane, is very good at ridding them. Lane and his master, Bob Lee, visit the dam for walking and fishing on a regular basis. Lane, a friendly but business-like animal, is about three years old; he lives near the dam with his family. He was named for a wrestler. Lane is happy in his volunteer position, which he takes very seriously. He can't wait to get out of the truck and gets right to work. He is an expert, quick and efficient and has been a tremendous help in eliminating the cause of such hazards for the Corps.

The staff at Mohawk Dam wants to publicly thank Lee and Lane for their help in keeping the dam looking nice and helping to improve safety for the people who use the area.



*Photo by Janet Lahm
Lane is a ground hog's worst nightmare, but answers a recurring problem at Mohawk Dam.*

Employees set to take PMBP training

By KATHY REA
Public Affairs

Project Management Business Process or PMBP as it is referred is a terminology that district employees should be familiar. PMBP focuses on creating a workplace environment based on effective teamwork.

Over the next year and a half, PMBP will be deployed throughout the district. Deployment consists of PMBP training, implementation of the PMBP manual and deployment of P2, the automated system. We will begin with training on the PMBP through CDs and small group discussions. In addition to the introduction and "Why PMBP" CDs which have been distributed to district employees, there are seven additional self-paced courses, each supported by small group discussion sessions. The introduction provides an overview of the curriculum and explains how to navigate through the course CDs and web content.

"Why PMBP" addresses why the Corps chose PMBP as a way of doing

business, how it affects you, the employee, and how it relates to the strategic vision. Small group discussions, led by a district facilitator, are now being scheduled. District facilitators are Anna Kinker, Mike Keathley, Jim Shiner, Scott Kinzel, Crystal Adkins, Mark Taylor, Tammy Riffle, Lisa Humphreys, Steve Brewster and Terry Clarke.

The first to view course 1 CDs and participate in small group discussions

were members of the Quality Committee followed by district supervisors.

The purpose of this training is to help employees understand PMBP and transition easily into the PMBP environment. The training applies to every member of the Corps of Engineers nationwide. It is based on the philosophy that everything we do is considered a project and every employee is a team member.

Course Training Schedule

• Introduction; Why PMBP?	June-Jul 02
• Teams and me; Public Service & Me	4Q fiscal year 2002
• Organization, Teams & Me; Quality & the PDT	1 Q fiscal year 2003
• Working in the PDT (includes BP/P2 training)	3 Q fiscal year 2003
• Success, the PDT & Me; Call to Action	1 Q fiscal year 2004

Retirees Corner

Group plans activities for interested retirees

By **JOHN TURNER**
COEHDRA Publication's
Coordinator

COEHDRA Happenings: Well your Huntington District Retiree Association (COEHDRA) outdid itself at this year's Annual Retiree Luncheon. The facility was excellent, the food was outstanding the program was most interesting and I'm told that the attendance was the best it's been since 1996. This obviously is attributed to the hard and dedicated work by those of you who faithfully attend and participate in our monthly planning meetings. Congratulations on a job well done!

GUEST SPEAKER: Speaking of our luncheon, I want to take this opportunity on behalf of COEHDRA members to personally thank Marshall University History Professor Dr. Paul Lutz for his outstanding portrayal of William Anderson "Devil Anse" Hatfield of the famed Hatfield and McCoy feud.

VICE PRESIDENT ELECT: Well it's final! COEHDRA now has an official Vice President and Bevo has an excellent choice for his "successor." That's right, at this year's retiree luncheon, Willard Hunter was unanimously chosen to serve in this very important position. I can already see that we're in for an exciting "2003 Tenure." Congratulations Willard!

A C T I V I T Y COORDINATOR: Another very important position was filled at this year's luncheon which is a new activity coordinator for our association. Since we had no prior nominees for this position, volunteers were solicited and I'm most happy to announce that

Annette Quinn was the chosen individual. We look forward to many new and exciting future events for COEHDRA and I'm sure Annette welcomes your suggestions. Just give her a call at 522-7104. Congratulations Annette!

CONDOLENCES: Helen Dillow Breeding of Ashland, widow of Andrew J. Breeding, died on Tuesday, May 21 in the Oakmont Manor Nursing Home. Helen served for several years as the Huntington District's Chief of Office of Administrative Services. Our condolences go out to Helen's family.

COEHDRA Web Page: Good news, COEHDRA is now out on the internet and can be found under the Huntington Web Page www.lrh.usace.army.mil Randy Sortet says now all he needs is your "input" of interesting info you would like to have placed online. Just give him a call at 522-8032.

OUT AND ABOUT: Now I know that there are many events you've encountered since retirement, that I'm sure would be quite interesting and possibly worthwhile to other retirees...if only you would share them with us! Since assuming this

COEHDRA assignment I've only received a couple of articles that have been reported and published. So come on folks...let me hear what's happening "out and about" in your neck of the woods. Information must be forwarded to me at 1103 Walnut Street, Kenova, W.Va. 25530 no later than the last Monday of each month.

CASTLE COMMENTS: Can you believe that there are still many retirees who are not receiving the monthly issue of Castle Comments. Retiree Ray Knight has agreed to take on this problem and is attempting to locate and develop a listing of the names of all known "non recipients." In the event you know of such individuals, please advise Ray at 525-7313 or Kathy Rea of the Public Affairs Office at 529-5771. The future success of COEHDRA requires getting the word out to all retirees!

SUMMER MEETINGS: Bevo tells me that there will be no COEHDRA planning meetings during the months of July and August. Our next meeting will be Sept. 9 at 11:30 a.m. at the Ponderosa Steak House located at 3100 Route 60 East in Huntington. All retirees are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Possible Retiree Activities

One Day Trip

- ☐ Tri-State Greyhound Park
- ☐ MU/WVU Football Games
- ☐ COE Field Project

Christmas Outings

- ☐ Luncheon
- ☐ Dinner

Overnight Trips

- ☐ Gatlinburg, Tenn.
- ☐ MU/WVU Football Games
- ☐ "Abraham" Theater Play in Pa.

Other (List)

If you did not attend the Luncheon and didn't get the opportunity to fill out this form, but would be interested in doing so, fill out and mail to Bevo Theuring at #1 Willoghby Ave. Huntington, W.Va. 25705.

Huntington District People

Condolences

•To the family of retiree Helen Breeding. She passed away May 21.

•To Phil Anderson and his family on the loss of his father June 2.

•To the family of retired Deer Creek Lake's Resource Manager Bob King. He passed away May 16.

Congratulations

•Congratulations to Andrew Tomlinson, son of Engineering and Construction's Tony Tomlinson and his wife Dianna, for Andrew receiving the Pastor's Christian Leadership Scholarship at Georgetown College. The scholarship is for \$7,000 a year up to four years.



•Luke Mullins, son of Ginger Mullins, helped win \$10,000 for his school by winning the Oscar Meyer Weiner contest with the Scott Teays Singing Tigers. The "weiner mobile" visited their school and all choir members were able to visit inside.

New Arrival

•Jeanie Wilson and her husband Travis welcomed their daughter into the world June 12 at 4:02 a.m. Addison Renee arrived weighing 8 pounds and 4 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Decision

Continued from page 1

Feb. issue of Castle Comments when he discussed his view that, "We never considered (regulating) valley fills before the 1998 lawsuit was filed. We felt that we didn't have the authority to regulate based on two federal court decisions (Copenhaver's decision in 1989 and the Court of Appeals review in 1991)," Gheen said.

The 1998 court case Gheen refers to was brought by the W.Va. Highland Conservancy against the Corps and W.Va. state regulatory agencies. The Corps-related aspect of this suit was settled by an agreement in Dec. 1998 signed by attorneys for the Highland Conservancy District and the U.S. Dept. of Justice. This agreement was followed by an administrative change agreement between the Corps, US Office of Surface Mining, USEPA, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the W.Va. Division of Environmental Protection. The stated purpose of the agreement was for the purpose of providing effective coordination in the evaluation of surface coal mining operations resulting in placement of excess spoil fills in waters of the United States.

Subsequently the Corps issued valley fill permits acknowledging the regulation of mining disposal

waste. This most recent court case brought before Judge Haden in the US District Court for Southern West Virginia concerned a valley fill permit issued in Martin County, Kentucky. The court's opinion of May 8 appears to indicate that neither EPA or the Corps have the authority under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to authorize permits solely for waster disposal purposes. The Corps appeared to indicate that even if the Corps changed its regulatory definition of fill, the Corps does not have authority to regulate under Section 404. The government's position has been that the Corps has the authority under the Clean Water Act to change its definition of fill to accord with EPA's definition and according regulate mining overburden disposal material as fill.

Since Haden made his ruling, the Justice Department has requested a stay of the decision based in part on the rulings regional economic impact. Currently, the district's regulatory section is not issuing valley fill permits. The district is awaiting the results of the motion to stay and a potential appeal of the May 8 decision.

Correction

•Neisha Blevins was incorrectly referred to by her maiden name,

Neisha Keeling, in the last issue of Castle Comments under the photo caption with the pregnant women. Sorry Neisha.

Department of the Army
Huntington Dist. Corps of Engrs
502 Eighth Street
Huntington WV, 25701-2070

Official Business

Address Label here

Address Correction Requested